

**§ 1626.2 Terms defined in the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended.**

The terms *person*, *employer*, *employment agency*, *labor organization*, *employee*, *commerce*, *industry affecting commerce*, and *State* as used herein shall have the meanings set forth in section 11 of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, as amended.

**§ 1626.3 Other definitions.**

For purpose of this part, the term *the Act* shall mean the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended; the *Commission* shall mean the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or any of its designated representatives; *charge* shall mean a statement filed with the Commission by or on behalf of an aggrieved person which alleges that the named prospective defendant has engaged in or is about to engage in actions in violation of the Act; *complaint* shall mean information received from any source, that is not a charge, which alleges that a named prospective defendant has engaged in or is about to engage in actions in violation of the Act; *charging party* means the person filing a charge; *complainant* means the person filing a complaint; and *respondent* means the person named as a prospective defendant in a charge or complaint, or as a result of a Commission-initiated investigation.

**§ 1626.4 Information concerning alleged violations of the Act.**

The Commission may, on its own initiative, conduct investigations of employers, employment agencies and labor organizations, in accordance with the powers vested in it pursuant to sections 6 and 7 of the Act. The Commission shall also receive information concerning alleged violations of the Act, including charges and complaints, from any source. Where the information discloses a possible violation, the appropriate Commission office may render assistance in the filing of a charge. The identity of a complainant, confidential witness, or aggrieved person on whose behalf a charge was filed will ordinarily not be disclosed without prior written consent, unless necessary in a court proceeding.

**§ 1626.5 Where to submit complaints and charges.**

Complaints and charges may be submitted in person, by telephone, or by mail to any of the District, Area or local Offices of the Commission, or to the Washington Field Office, or at the Headquarters of the Commission at Washington, DC, or with any designated representative of the Commission. The addresses of the Commission's District, Area and Local Offices appear at § 1610.4.

[48 FR 140, Jan. 3, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 13025, Apr. 2, 1984; 54 FR 32063, Aug. 4, 1989]

**§ 1626.6 Form of charge.**

A charge shall be in writing and shall name the prospective respondent and shall generally allege the discriminatory act(s). Charges received in person or by telephone shall be reduced to writing.

**§ 1626.7 Timeliness of charge.**

(a) Charges will not be rejected as untimely provided that they are not barred by the statute of limitations as stated in section 6 of the Portal to Portal Act of 1947.

(b) Potential charging parties will be advised that, pursuant to section 7(d) (1) and (2) of the Act, no civil suit may be commenced by an individual until 60 days after a charge has been filed on the subject matter of the suit, and such charge shall be filed with the Commission or its designated agent within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action, or, in a case where the alleged discriminatory action occurs in a State which has its own age discrimination law and authority administering that law, within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory action, or 30 days after receipt of notice of termination of State proceedings, whichever is earlier.

(c) For purposes of determining the date of filing with the Commission, the following applies:

(i) Charges filed by mail:

(i) Date of postmark, if legible,

(ii) Date of letter, if postmark is illegible,

(iii) Date of receipt by Commission, or its designated agent, if postmark and letter date are illegible and/or cannot be accurately affixed;